

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Library to Debut Major New Author Series at the Canton Palace Theatre *Premier features bestselling author and 9/11 survivor Michael Hingson*

August 31, 2016 (Canton, Ohio) –Join Stark County District Library this fall for the launch of the new *Dr. Audrey Lavin Speaking of Books Author Series*, which brings acclaimed writers to Stark County who inspire lively discussion and community conversation while exemplifying literary excellence. The debut 2016-2017 season includes four special evenings planned at the Canton Palace Theatre.

The lead off author for this event is 9/11 survivor and bestselling author Michael Hingson. He will be presenting his inspirational true story of survival to guests at the Canton Palace Theater on Wednesday, September 14 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Michael's book, *Thunder Dog: The True Story of a Blind Man, His Guide Dog, and the Triumph of Trust* chronicles his harrowing escape from the 78th floor of the World Trade Center with the help of his guide dog, Roselle. This compelling story gives a moment-by-moment account of the events of the unlikely pairs escape from Tower I and the unshakeable bond between them.

Michael Hingson is now a world renowned speaker, social advocate, and New York Times bestselling author. His guide dog, Roselle passed away in 2001. She was awarded the Dicken Medal in 2002, awarded to animals that display devotion to duty under duress (usually during times of war), and went on to be posthumously named the American Hero Dog of the Year in 2011.

This series is inspired by Dr. Audrey Lavin, local "celebrity" author, a globe-trotting academic, a champion of writers, and a tireless supporter of the Library. She has shown unwavering support for the library mission as a member of the Library Development Board and by serving on the Library Foundation for many years.

Reserve free tickets to any of the author events at starklibrary.org/speakingofbooks.

The complete debut season's schedule includes:

Michael Hingson

Wednesday, September 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

On September 11, 2001, a blind man escaped the World Trade Center by walking down 78 flights of stairs with his guide dog. America fell in love with Michael and his dog Roselle and the special bond that helped them both survive one of the country's darkest days.

Michael Hingson is now a world renowned speaker, social advocate, and New York Times bestselling author.

Forrest Pritchard

Tuesday, October 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Forrest Pritchard is a seventh generation farmer and New York Times bestselling author. His book, *Gaining Ground, A Story of Farmer's Markets, Local Food and Saving the Family Farm*, was named a top read by Publishers Weekly, The Washington Post and NPR's The Splendid Table. Forrest is also this Stark County's One Book, One Community selection for 2016.

Terry McMillan

Wednesday, February 15, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

#1 New York Times bestselling author Terry McMillan fell in love with books as a teenager while working at the local library. She studied journalism at UC Berkeley and screenwriting at Columbia before making her fiction debut with *Mama*, which won both the Doubleday New Voices in Fiction Award and the American Book Award. She lives in Pasadena, California.

Garth Stein

Tuesday, April 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Garth discusses his bestselling book *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, the writing process, and more. He's the author of three other novels: including his latest, *A Sudden Light*. *The Art of Racing in the Rain* is the contemporary classic narrated by the beloved canine character, Enzo. It's sold 6 million copies, been translated into 35 languages, and spent more than three years on the NYT bestseller list.

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

One of the 9 largest library systems in Ohio – and the county's oldest library -- Stark County District Library serves the community through 10 locations, six mobile libraries, and a 24/7 digital branch.

A 2009 winner of the prestigious National Medal for library service, the Library serves over 105,000 active cardholders, annually circulating 3.85 million items from its 1.4 million item collection and providing access to an additional 66 million items from lending networks throughout Ohio. Each year the library presents more than 9,000 programs for 170,000 attendees and provides 260,000 computer sessions on the publicly available computers found in each branch.

Today, as it reimagines itself as The Smart Store, where everything is free®, the Library is emerging as a national thought-leader with innovations such as its “no overdue fines” policy, the BikeSmart bike sharing network, and the Start Smart School Partnership.

For more information, call 330.452.0665 or visit <http://www.starklibrary.org>.

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